II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating a selected ionic protein component of interest from a sample component using ~~an ionic~~ a selective cation-exchange adsorbent ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic adsorbent~~ having a sufficiently low ionic charge density to ionically bind selectively with the ionic protein component of interest which comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample component containing the ~~selected~~ ionic protein component of interest with ~~an~~ a selective cation-exchange ~~ionic~~ adsorbent having a sufficiently low ionic charge density that ~~selectively~~ binds to the ~~selected~~ ionic protein component of interest ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic adsorbent~~, wherein the ionic charge density of the ~~ionic~~ cation-exchange adsorbent is 10 to 100 μmol/ml; and

(b) ionically binding the ~~selected~~ ionic protein component of interest from the sample component with the selective ionic adsorbent.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the selective ionic adsorbent is a cation-exchange adsorbent.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the selective ionic adsorbent comprises a sulphopropyl group.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the sample component comprises an additional ionic protein component, and ~~wherein~~ the ionic charge density of the selective cation-exchange ionic adsorbent is selected such that ~~only~~ the ~~selected~~ additional ionic protein component is not ionically bound to the selective cation-exchange ionic adsorbent.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the ionic protein component of interest is an immunoglobulin.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein the ~~sample comprises, in addition to the~~ additional ionic protein component is protein A.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~1~~ 8, which further comprises (c) washing the selective cation-exchange adsorbent with a buffered solution to remove unbound components, and

(d) applying a salt gradient of increasing conductivity to the selective cation-exchange adsorbent and eluting the ionically bound ionic protein component of interest from the selective cation-exchange adsorbent.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the ionic charge density of the selective cation-exchange ionic adsorbent is from 20 to 90 μmol/ml.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the ionic charge density of the selective cation-exchange ionic adsorbent is from 30 to 80 μmol/ml.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of separating a ~~selected~~ first ionic ~~polymeric~~ protein compound of interest from a sample having at least ~~two~~ one additional different ionic ~~polymeric~~ protein compounds using ~~an ionic~~ a selective cation-exchange adsorbent having a sufficiently low ionic charge density to ionically bind to the first ionic protein compound of interest ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic adsorbent~~, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample having at least two different first and second ionic ~~polymeric~~ protein compounds with ~~an ionic~~ a selective cation-exchange adsorbent having an ionic charge density from 10 to 100 μmol/ml; ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic adsorbent~~, wherein the ionic charge density of the ~~ionic~~ cation-exchange adsorbent is selected such that ~~only~~ the ~~selected~~ first ionic ~~polymeric~~ protein compound of interest ~~is bound~~ binds to the ~~ionic~~ cation-exchange adsorbent and the second different ionic protein compound is unbound to the cation-exchange adsorbent,

(b) washing the cation-exchange adsorbent with a buffered solution to remove the unbound second different ionic protein compound, and

(c) applying a salt gradient of increasing conductivty to the cation-exchange adsorbent and eluting the ionically bound first ionic protein compound of interest from the cation-exchange adsorbent.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~ionic~~ cation-exchange adsorbent has an ionic charge density from 20 to 90 µmol/ml and comprises a sulphopropyl group.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~ionic~~ cation-exchange adsorbent ~~is a cation-exchange adsorbent~~ has an ionic charge density from 30 to 80 µmol/ml and comprises agarose beads having sulphopropyl groups.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of separating a protein A component from an immunoglobulin G component in ~~a selected ionic biomolecule from~~ a sample component ~~having at least two ionic biomolecules~~ using ~~an ionic~~ a selective cation-exchange adsorbent having sulphopropyl groups ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic adsorbent~~, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample component comprising protein A and immunoglobulin G components ~~having the at least two ionic biomolecules~~ with ~~an ionic~~ a selective cation-exchange adsorbent ~~in the absence of an additional salt that binds with the ionic~~ ~~adsorbent~~ having an ionic charge density from 10 to 100 µmol/ml to ionically bind to the immunoglobulin G component, ~~wherein the charge density of the ionic adsorbent is selected such that only the selected ionic biomolecule is bound to the ionic adsorbent~~ and

(b) washing the selective cation-exchange adsorbent with a buffered solution to remove any unbound components.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 15, which further comprises (c) applying a salt gradient of increasing conductivty to the selective cation-exchange adsorbent, and eluting the bound immunoglobulin G component ~~bound selected ionic biomolecule~~ from the selective cation-exchange adsorbent.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~ionic~~ selective cation-exchange adsorbent has an ionic charge density from 20 to 90 µmol/ml ~~comprises a sulphopropyl group~~.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 15, wherein the sample component is selected from the group consisting of blood and cell culture broths.

20. (CANCELED)